



APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE DEMOCRATS

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Bush Budget Cuts Grants and Training to Prepare for Emergencies by \$612 Million

Ignores Lessons From Katrina, Terrorist Threats

WASHINGTON – Today, George W. Foresman, Undersecretary for Preparedness at the Department of Homeland Security, testified on the President’s FY 2007 budget request. Foresman oversees the Department of Homeland Security’s [Preparedness Directorate](#), which funds anti-terrorism grants and coordinates activities to protect our borders, seaports, bridges, highways, and critical information systems.

The Bush budget proposes cutting preparedness grants and training in the directorate by \$612 million below last year. These programs have already been cut by over \$1 billion since 2004.

These cuts ignore the lessons of Hurricane Katrina and the analysis done since September 11th. The [2003 Rudman Report](#) found that first responders were “drastically underfunded” and “dangerously unprepared.” The report estimated “additional funding required to cover potential emergency responder needs is approximately \$98.4 billion over five years.” Despite these dire warnings, the Bush budget would cut funding for preparedness grants.

- The president would eliminate \$851 million for seven preparedness grant programs and replace them with \$600 million in “Targeted Infrastructure Grants,” a 30% cut. This includes grants to protect ports, rail, transit, trucking and intercity buses as well as state law enforcement protection grants.
- Bush would cut funding for fire fighters by \$355 million, or 55%. Fire fighter grants were already cut by \$98 million from 2004 to 2006. These cuts ignore warnings in a [2003 report](#) by the U.S. Fire Administration which found that fire stations across the country are under staffed, under trained, and under equipped.
- Training grants are cut by \$128 million, or 41%, even though the [White House Katrina report](#) notes that “the Department of Homeland Security should develop a comprehensive program for the development and education of the Nation’s homeland security personnel” including all levels of government and private & charitable organizations.

These cuts are compounded by the \$1.3 billion in cuts to Department of Justice state and local law enforcement grants proposed in the Bush budget. These grants have already been cut by \$1 billion since 2001.

CUTS TO PREPAREDNESS FUNDING

\$851 million in grants eliminated, replaced by \$600 million in “Targeted Infrastructure Grants.”

Programs to be Eliminated:	FY 2006 Level
State Law Enforcement Protection Grants	- \$396,000,000
Port Security Grants	- \$173,000,000
Rail and Transit Grants	- \$148,000,000
Buffer Zone Protection Program	- \$49,000,000
Real ID	- \$39,600,000
Metropolitan Medical Response System Grants	- \$29,700,000
Trucking & Intercity Bus Security Grants	- \$14,850,000
Total Eliminated Programs:	- \$851,400,000
New “Targeted Infrastructure Grants”:	\$600,000,000
Total Cut:	- \$251,400,000

Other Program Cuts:

Program	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2007 Bush Request	Total Cut	% Cut
<u>Assistance to Firefighter Grants</u>	<u>\$648,450,000</u>	<u>\$293,450,000</u>	<u>- \$355,000,000</u>	<u>-55%</u>
- <i>Fire Act Grants</i>	\$539,550,000	\$293,450,000	- \$246,100,000	
- <i>SAFER Act</i>	\$108,900,000	\$0	- \$108,900,000	
<u>Training Total:</u>	<u>\$308,587,000</u>	<u>\$180,559,000</u>	<u>- \$128,028,000</u>	<u>-41%</u>
<i>National Exercise Program</i>	\$51,480,000	\$48,708,000	- \$2,772,000	
<i>Domestic Preparedness Consortium & Center</i>	\$143,550,000	\$89,351,000	- \$54,199,000	
<i>Training Grants</i>	\$54,450,000	\$3,000,000	- \$51,450,000	
<i>Technical Assistance Program</i>	\$19,800,000	\$11,500,000	- \$8,300,000	
<i>Rural Domestic Preparedness Consort.</i>	\$9,900,000	\$0	- \$9,900,000	
<i>Pre-positioned Equipment Program</i>	\$10,300,000	\$0	- \$10,300,000	

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